



Funding sources for beekeeping projects

This document provides a summary of the discussion “Funding sources for beekeeping projects” held on the TECA Beekeeping Exchange Group from February 2011 to August 2012¹.

Identifying a potential sponsor to submit a proposal for a beekeeping project can be a major obstacle. The first part of this summary raises some questions that should be considered when preparing a project proposal; the second part lists the funding sources that were exchanged in the forum. We would like to thank TECA members for their fruitful contributions provided in the TECA discussion group.

SOME CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE PREPARING A BEEKEEPING PROJECT²:

- * *Is your environment suitable for beekeeping?*
As bees are important pollinators for fruit trees and other crops, are sufficient flowering trees available or does the project include growing of fruit trees? Are there already beekeepers in the area? Is there enough bee forage (flowers) to sustain more bee hives? Are there wild bees colonies that can stock your hives? How many hives can you manage?
- * *Are there existing organisational structures?*
Are there existing producer groups or similar associations in the project area? Can your project be integrated? What is the local technical capacity available? Are producers willing to adopt new technologies? When introducing beekeeping to potential producer groups, are existing beekeepers involved or can they take the role of trainers?
- * *How is your business environment structured?*
Do you have an idea of existing markets for honey and other related products (e.g. wax) in the project area? Is it a profitable market? Are there potential traders for your products? Is there sufficient group leadership available to run the project? Should business and leadership skills be strengthened?

Also think of funding sources that are related to Beekeeping!

When looking for a funding source for a beekeeping project, you should not only focus on funding sources for projects that specifically support beekeeping, but also funding sources that support objectives closely interlinked with beekeeping such as forestry, agroforestry³, biodiversity, sustainable development, poverty, nutrition, conservation and the likes.

Think small for solid growth!

Do not think and work on a big scale when starting a beekeeping project. Expectations and risk of failure are high. It is better to concentrate on a small project, gradually increasing beekeeping skills and knowledge and consequently on increasing the yield per hive and improving product quality. Once these steps are done, further expansion is possible when conducted slowly.

¹ <http://teca.fao.org/discussion/funding-sources-beekeeping-projects>

² See also: [starting a beekeeping development project.pdf](#) by Pam Gregory & Gay Marris

³ See e.g. Trees for the future: <http://www.treesforthefuture.org/>

FUNDING SOURCES

A good start is to use the internet in order to find appropriate support for your beekeeping project. Open a search engine and type for instance: *deadlines for funding application / funding for development projects / call for proposals for development projects / call for proposals for agricultural projects / sustainable forest management / educational projects* and the likes. The following are the funding sources that were mentioned in the discussion on funding sources for beekeeping projects within the Beekeeping Exchange Group:

1. TeleFood Special Fund

The **Telefood Special Fund of FAO** is the **only funding source of FAO** providing **direct funding to grassroot based projects**, including beekeeping projects⁴. There are no calls for proposals; you can **apply at any time**. The following links assist you with preparing your proposal:

- a) Guidelines for preparing a project proposal
<http://teca.fao.org/sites/default/files/resources/Guidelines%20for%20projects%20to%20be%20funded%20by%20the%20TeleFood%20Programme.pdf>
- a) Link to project examples
<http://www-data.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/tcd/toolkit/2funding/2.3.htm>
- b) Example of a Telefood apicultural project proposal:
<http://www-data.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/tcd/toolkit/docs/TSF/PROJEXAM/TEPEBees.htm>

Project proposals for funding under the TeleFood Programme should be **submitted to the FAO Office in your country**. Contact the FAO Office that is in charge of your country (<http://coin.fao.org/cms/do/en/index.html>) for further information.

2. Sourcebook on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management

The online Collaborative Partnerships on Forests' (CPF) **Sourcebook on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management** has been developed to help users to **efficiently locate funding sources** for sustainable forest management projects. It is a good starting point to look for funding for beekeeping projects. The sourcebook is developed and maintained by FAO in collaboration with other CPF members.

http://www.cpfweb.org/74750/en/#13476076373132&id=plugin_167325&height=710

⁴ Note that **FAO is not a funding institution; it provides technical assistance to its member states** following a request submitted by governments. NGOs and other stakeholders can send their request for technical assistance to the attention of the related ministry (mostly ministry for agriculture, forestry, rural development or similar). It is then up to the Government to designate the appropriate technical service or partner institution to collaborate with FAO in the formulation and consequent implementation of the project.

3. Civil Society Responsive Grant of The Commonwealth Foundation (CSRG)

The CSRG provides support for **beekeeping training courses, study tours or exchange courses**. It accepts only applicants from Commonwealth countries.

For more information, see here:

<http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/Aboutus/TheCommonwealth/Commonweal...>

Applications can be **submitted 4 times a year** (March, June, September and December).

The full terms and conditions as well as application form can be downloaded from the Civil Society Responsive Grant webpage:

<http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/Howwedeliver/Grants/Civilsocietyresponsivegrants>

4. Bee Support

BeeSupport is a non-governmental organisation supporting **small scale sustainable apicultural projects** in Ghana, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia, but is also open to projects in other countries.

[http://www.beesupport.com/
info@beesupport.com](http://www.beesupport.com/info@beesupport.com)

5. Bee Acholi

Bee Acholi is a Belgian registered voluntary charity organization that strives to **strengthen the potentials of the poor rural communities** in the South and particularly in the Kitgum District of Northern **Uganda**. It aims at initiating and supporting local community development initiatives, social-economic activities and environmental conservation programmes. This organization might be helpful, both technically and financially.

<http://www.bee-acholi.be/en/about-bee-acholi/who-we-are>

6. Beekeeping Network North South (BNNS)

The BNNS is a network to promote beekeeping as a development tool. Some of the associations' members can help **finance beekeeping projects** or can help **formulate project proposals**.

<http://www.bnns.org/>